

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1           1.       A method for operating a disk drive, comprising the steps of:  
2           detecting insertion of a disk within the disk drive;  
3           reading contents of the disk; and  
4           storing a copy of the disk contents in a designated location within memory as a  
5           back-up version.

1           2.       The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a new  
2           version of data in the designated location when a user stores a new version of data on  
3           the disk.

1           3.       The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically  
2           ejecting the disk during a shut down procedure of the computing device.

1           4.       A computing device, comprising:  
2           a processing device;  
3           a disk drive; and  
4           memory including a disk back-up controller that is configured to store a copy  
5           of contents of a disk inserted into the disk drive in a designated location within  
6           memory.

1           5.       The computing device of claim 4, wherein the disk back-up controller  
2 is further configured to store a new version of data in the designated location when a  
3 user stores a new version of data on the disk.

1           6.       The computing device of claim 4, further comprising an ejection  
2 mechanism that is adapted to automatically eject the disk during a shut down  
3 procedure of the computing device.

1           7.       The computing device of claim 4, wherein the disk drive comprises a  
2 floppy disk drive.

1           8.       The computing device of claim 4, wherein the computing device is one  
2 of a personal computer, a Macintosh computer, and a notebook computer.

1           9.       A method for operating a disk drive, comprising the steps of:  
2 detecting a shut down procedure of the computing device; and  
3 transmitting an ejection command to the disk drive to cause an ejection  
4 mechanism of the disk drive to actuate to eject a floppy disk inserted within the disk  
5 drive.

1           10.      The method of claim 9, detecting insertion of a disk within the disk  
2 drive and storing a copy of the disk contents in a designated location within memory  
3 as a back-up version.

1           11.     The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of storing a new  
2     version of data in the designated location when a user stores a new version of data on  
3     the disk.

1           12.     A computing device, comprising:  
2             a processing device;  
3             a disk drive, the disk drive including an ejection mechanism is configured to  
4     actuate to automatically eject a disk contained within the disk drive during shut down  
5     procedures of the computing device.

1           13.     The computing device of claim 12, further comprising memory  
2     including a disk ejection controller configured to transmit an ejection command to the  
3     disk drive when a shut down procedure is detected.

1           14.     The computing device of claim 12, further comprising memory  
2     including a disk back-up controller configured to store a copy of disk contents in a  
3     designated location within memory as a back-up version when a disk is inserted into  
4     the disk drive.

1           15.     The computing device of claim 14, wherein the disk back-up controller  
2     is further configured to store a new version of data in the designated location when a  
3     user stores a new version of data on the disk.

1           16.    The computing device of claim 12, wherein the disk drive comprises a  
2   floppy disk drive.

1           17.    The computing device of claim 12, wherein the computing device is  
2   one of a personal computer, a Macintosh computer, and a notebook computer.

1           18.    A disk drive for use in a computing device, the disk drive comprising:  
2       an ejection mechanism configured to automatically eject a disk contained  
3   within the disk drive during shut down procedures of the computing device.

1           19.    The disk drive of claim 18, wherein the ejection mechanism comprises  
2   electromechanical components that actuate upon application of an appropriate  
3   actuation voltage.